

### ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE

# Long Island Regulated Area: Asian Longhorned Beetle

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB, Anoplophora glabripennis) is an invasive pest that threatens hardwood trees. The beetle is native to China and other areas of East Asia, and it arrived in the United States concealed in solid wood packing material, the pallets and crates used to transport goods. The ALB was first discovered in the United States in Brooklyn, NY, in 1996. It has since been detected in four other States and areas of New York, including Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk counties.

At the end of July 2013, an alert homeowner on Long Island reported a suspicious insect to State officials by providing a photograph and video clip of the live insect on their private property. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the insect was ALB. This was the first detection of the invasive pest outside the existing Nassau-Suffolk County regulated area, which had been in place since 1996. Together with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, APHIS began surveys in several neighborhoods to determine the scope of the infestation.







### **Regulated Area**

In February 2014, the State of New York proposed to amend the existing ALB Suffolk County quarantine due to the new detection. In April 2014, APHIS updated Federal regulations accordingly. The amended quarantine adds 28 square miles to the existing 23-square-mile regulated area of Nassau-Suffolk Counties, resulting in a total of 137 square miles under quarantine for ALB in the State. The amended quarantine includes the towns of Oyster Bay, Huntington, and Babylon. For a map of the Long Island quarantine area, go to www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com; in the top left corner of the page, click on "New York" and then "Long Island Quarantine Map" (at center of new page).

Both Federal and State laws establish regulated areas (quarantines) around ALB infestations. The regulated areas help with beetle eradication by curtailing the movement of materials that could host the ALB and carry it to new locations. This keeps infestations from spreading. Federal and State laws also outline the conditions and requirements for moving regulated articles out of or within the infested areas. The Federal regulation can be found in the *Code of Federal Regulations*, specifically under Title 7, section 301.51. New York State laws for ALB can be found in the *New York Codes, Rules and Regulations* under Title 1, part 139 ("Control of the Asian Longhorned Beetle").

## Working in Long Island's Regulated Area

In New York, you may not harvest, cut, move, carry, transport, or ship (or authorize or allow any other person to do the same) regulated articles outside of ALB-regulated areas without authorization from the State's Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets.

Wood from ALB host trees may not be taken out of regulated areas without a compliance agreement, permit, or certification, unless the wood is chipped to less than 1 inch in two dimensions. Wood chips of this size are no longer a regulated article.

If you do commercial work involving regulated materials within the New York ALB-regulated areas, you or your company must have a compliance agreement in place with the State's ALB eradication program. A compliance agreement allows you to move host material from the regulated area in lieu of a certificate or limited permit. This requirement applies to all individuals and businesses (e.g., landscaping, construction companies, nurseries, tree removal services, firewood dealers, and others) performing work on regulated articles within the

quarantine areas. It also applies to companies that prune or remove trees or in any way handle wood that comes from the 13 ALB host tree species.

To enter into a compliance agreement, you must first attend a free training workshop given by ALB eradication program officials. All employees of the businesses and companies seeking compliance agreements are urged to attend this training. At the conclusion of training, the compliance agreement will be issued to an individual, business, or company official.

If you have questions about regulated materials and permits in New York, please call the ALB program at **1-631-288-1751**.

### **Living in Regulated Areas**

The ALB can spread to new locations by hitchhiking on a variety of materials made from hardwood trees. Given this risk, if you live in a New York ALB-regulated area, you may not move any regulated articles out of the quarantine zone. Regulated articles include firewood of all hardwood tree species, green lumber, and other materials as listed in the State and Federal regulations for ALB.

When you hire contractors to work on your home or property, make sure they have compliance agreements for any work on ALB host trees. Contractors with compliance agreements have received stickers for use on their company vehicles; the stickers are displayed on the vehicle and state the ALB sticker number assigned to the compliance holder. This sticker verifies that the company has been trained to handle wood materials in an ALB-regulated area and has access to the designated sites where regulated materials may be disposed of safely.

To support ALB eradication efforts, please allow State officials access to your property to perform surveys and related work. This includes locating ALB host trees and inspecting them for signs of infestation; removing infested trees and, in some cases, high-risk host trees near infested trees; or applying control treatments to host trees. ALB program representatives carry out these activities on residential, municipal, parkland, and business properties. There is no cost to homeowners for removing ALB-infested trees. The work is completed by specified contractors of the New York ALB Eradication Program.

### **Watch for Signs of ALB**

The adult ALB is a distinctive-looking insect measuring 1 to  $1\,\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, not including its antennae. In females, the antennae are as long as the body itself; in males, they are almost twice the length of the body. The insect's body is shiny and black with irregular white spots. The long antennae are banded in black and white.

Trees with ALB show a number of signs that they are infested. Here's what to look for:

- Adult beetles in the summer and early fall
- Round holes at least three-eighths of an inch in diameter on tree trunks and limbs
- Accumulation of sawdust-like material (called "frass") around base of tree or branches
- Small, roundish pockmarks on bark, chewed by the female beetle to lay eggs
- Oozing sap from wounds on branches and trunks, especially on maple trees
- Dieback in tree canopy or unseasonable change in leaf color

To report a suspected ALB infestation in New York, call **1-866-265-0301** or **1-866-702-9938**.









#### To learn more, go to or contact:

www.aphis.usda.gov www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com

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